

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANTIA 05688 181525Z

70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 SCCT-02 NIC-01 USSS-00 SY-04 FBIE-00

EB-11 SCA-01 A-01 M-02 IO-14 DRC-01 /153 W

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R 181416Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0333

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 5688

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINS, PINT

SUBJECT: ATTACK ON CHILEAN EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL MERINO SEPTEMBER 17, LATTER REFERRED TO SEPTEMBER 14 TERRORIST ATTACK AGAINST CHILEAN EMBASSY RESIDENCE IN BUENOS AIRES. ADMIRAL STATED NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS HAD UNDERESTIMATED SEVERITY OF ATTACK. WHILE PRESS HAD CLAIMED THAT TERRORISTS SPEEDING BY IN AUTO-MOBILE HAD FIRED VOLLIES AT EMBASSY RESIDENCE, FACT WAS THAT AT LEAST EIGHT EXPLOSIVE SHELLS HAD BEEN FIRED AT EMBASSY FROM HOME-MADE MORTARS IN NEARBY PARK. SEVERAL OF THESE HAD BEEN EMBEDDED IN LAWN AND WERE LATER DUG UP AND DEFUSED. IF ONE OF THEM HAD PENETRATED TO DININGROOM, WHERE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR WAS ENTERTAINING ARGENTINE DEFENSE MINISTER AND NUMBERS OF GENERALS AND ADMIRALS, RESULT WOULD HAVE BEEN CATASTROPHIC.

2. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO WAY OF JUDGING ACCURACY OF ADMIRAL MERINO'S COMMENT. AT TIMES CHILEANS ARE PRONE TO EXAGGERATION IN THESE MATTERS. IF EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES HAS ANY INFORMATION TENDING TO CONFIRM MERINO'S STORY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING IT.
POPPER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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